

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 A-01 CCO-00 MCT-01 OPR-02

OC-06 SY-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 IO-13

AID-05 ACDA-07 /092 W

-----061302Z 046079 /47

O P 061150Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1446

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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KARACHI PLEASE PASS RSS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

3.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PK, US, PFOR, ASEC

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY

1. AT 1300 HOURS MAY 6 APPROXIMATELY 17 DEMONSTRATORS
APPEARED IN DRIVEWAY IN FRONT OF EMBASSY. THEY ALL APPEARED
TO BE COLLEGE AGE AND WERE CARRYING SIGNS PROTESTING
AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTANI DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. THEY
WERE ORDERLY AND DID NOT SHOUT SLOGANS. THE GROUP INITIALLY
BLOCKED THE DRIVEWAY LEADING INTO EMBASSY BUT MOVED TO ONE
SIDE AT REQUEST OF RSO AND PAK POLICE WHO ARRIVED ON SCENE
SOON AFTER DEMONSTRATORS.

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2. DURING DISCUSSION BETWEEN GROUP AND RSO, IT WAS
AGREED TO LET TWO STUDENTS ENTER THE EMBASSY, SPEAK TO
EMBASSY OFFICER AND PRESENT A PETITION. STUDENTS, WHO
CAME UNEQUIPPED TO PREPARE PETITION, HAD TO BORROW PIECE
OF PAPER TO WRITE THEIR STATEMENT. RSO THEN ESCORTED TWO
OF THE GROUP (ONE BOY AND ONE GIRL) TO THE EMBASSY WHERE
THEY MET WITH EMBOFF. BOTH STUDENTS WERE WELL DRESSED,

POLITE, ARTICULATE, COURTEOUS, MILD-MANNERED, AND GENERALLY THE ANTITHESIS OF WHAT ONE EXPECTS TO BE DEMONSTRATING OUTSIDE OF AMERICAN EMBASSIES. THE GIRL WAS THE SPOKESWOMAN AND OPENED BY APOLOGIZING FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE SHE WAS CAUSING EMBOFF. SHE KNEW THAT WE WERE BUSY WITH EMBASSY WORK AND REGRETTED HAVING TO DISTURB US. SHE THEN GAVE PETITION TO EMBOFF AND ASKED THAT IT BE PASSED TO "THE AMBASSADOR."

3. PETITION WAS A STATEMENT NOTING THAT STUDENTS WERE PROTESTING AGAINST AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IT ADDS THAT THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW US POLICIES TO AFFECT THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR "MOTHERLAND." THE LETTER ENDS, "AGAINST ANY OF YOUR ADVANCES WE WILL STAND LIKE A WALL OF IRON AND STEEL". MESSAGE IS SIGNED "THE NATINALISTS." SPOKESWOMAN SAID THAT AMERICAN INTERFERENCE WAS ESPECIALLY PAINFUL TO THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE LONG CONSIDERED THE UNITED STATES AS A STEADFAST FRIEND OF PAKISTAN.

4. EMBOFF REPLIED BY FIRST REITERATING THAT THE CHARGES AGAINST US ARE BASELESS. HE THEN NOTED THAT WE HAD NEITHER REASON NOR DESIRE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN PAKISTAN'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. BOTH STUDENTS, WHO OBVIOUSLY KNOW WELL THE LONG TRADITION OF CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, SHOULD REALIZE THIS IS SO.

5. SPOKESWOMAN REPLIED THAT THEY FOUND CHARGES DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE, BUT THEY HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF AMERICAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST IN PAKISTAN'S WELL-BEING. EMBOFF REPLIED REFERRING TO CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND MILITARY SALES PROGRAMS TO PAKISTAN. SPOKESWOMAN CLOSED CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR HAVING THE CHANCE TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE AND NOTED SHE HAS APPLIED TO THREE UNIVERSITIES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR GRADUATE WORK AND STILL HOPED AND PLANNED TO GO TO AMERICA.

6. EMBASSY PLANS TO PROTEST TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT PROCESSION SINCE IT TOOK PLACE ON A DAY WHEN THE GOP HAS BANNED ALL PROCESSIONS AND MARCHES IN THE ISLAMABAD/ RAWALPINDI AREA.

7. PROCESSION AND DELIVERY OF PETITION HAD ALL THE EARMARKS OF A WELL-STAGED PRESENTATION. PAK TELEVISION WAS ON THE SCENE AND FILMED DEMONSTRATION. TV CREW WAS, OF COURSE, NOT ALLOWED IN THE EMBASSY. USIS INFORMATION OFFICER WAS CALLED BY LOCAL NEWSMAN TWO HOURS BEFORE DEMONSTRATORS ARRIVED AND WAS ASKED IF THE DEMONSTRATION

HAD STARTED YET. STUDENTS WERE OBVIOUSLY SINCERE BUT AT
THE SAME TIME SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED AND ILL AT EASE.
WE CAN SAFELY SAY THAT NEITHER EMBOFF NOR STUDENT DELEGATION
CONVINCED THE OTHER SIDE TO CHANGE ITS MIND. HOWEVER, AS
FAR AS PROCESSIONS, PETITIONS, AND ANTI-AMERICANISM GO,
IT WASN'T A BAD DAY.
CONSTABLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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